

PREMIER



BOYS STATE
ILLINOIS

PREMIER BOYS STATE-MENT



Visit Us On The Web: www.illinoisboysstate.org

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Vol. 60, No. 3, 4 Pages

We Are Leaders Now

By: Jimmy Clinton

Walking into the auditorium last night, it was clear that something had changed. It was not a physical difference; the band was still in the same place, counties were lined up, the personnel were the same. Most everything



looked identical, yet everything had changed. The air had changed. The feel had changed. The attitudes had changed. Instead of a group of loosely acquainted strangers making small talk and humming with confusion, here was a group brimming with confidence, howling with laughter as if they were old childhood friends. Looking around the room, this was no longer a group of teenage boys, but a congregation of young adults. In front, a group had started the wave and nearly the entire auditorium joined in. The crowd echoed together, cheered together, booed together and roared together. When the band began to play, every single hand clapped together in rhythm, a great improvement from the stagnant crowd of the bands last performance. This thunderous metronome created more of a concert feel than that of a leadership conference. It truly was a complete metamorphosis.

When the time came for the citizens to rise and salute the flag, a subtle aura of patriotism seemed to have swept across Boys State, something I doubt any of us expected. Next was an invocation led by a member of Gleason County where he urged that we, with the help of God, take what we learn to the “end of the day, end of the week, end of our lives.” That was the theme of last night’s ceremony. The assembly was kicked off with the underlying question of the week, “will our generation be prepared to confront the challenges we face?” Will we summon the ability to combat the demons that arrived

with the new millennium? The answer, as pointed out last night, lies in our dedication to others and our power to persevere.

Using examples from the past, Mr. Tom Johnson illustrated how important these two components are to leadership. He cited the barrier breaking Jane Addams, the unparalleled Langston Hughes, and of course, Abraham Lincoln. Interestingly enough, he created a chain of sorts, between the three figures. Lincoln inspired Addams by giving her words to live by, “With malice toward none, with charity toward all”; Addams in turn, influenced Hughes so much that he spoke at her funeral, “[Addams was] the mystic promise of democracy”. After hearing this, I could not help but wonder who was to be the next to fall into this line of exemplary leaders. Mr. Jones continued to draw this parallel between their stories, and the beginnings of our own. This comparison put a much more serious tone into what has begun to happen this week. Suddenly, it seemed as though any of us could become those leaders, that one of us may carry the next generation.

The last thought that was brought up in last night’s assembly called Boys State to action. The idea that true leaders are “tested daily, over a long period of time” and that, it is



not just the duty of “extraordinary people, but ordinary people who are asked to do extraordinary things,” seemed to resonate throughout the hall. The group that had just under seventy-hours ago never met now seemed to represent the future. Everyone in the hall, every one of the Citizens seemed to have realized one important thing; leadership does not come easy, it occurs over a long hard journey. All of us in the room seemed ready for that journey; as Langston Hughes said, “Keep your hand on the plow, and hold on.”

Boys State Citizen Services * By: José Ochoa & Bobby VanDrimmelen

Most Boys State citizens have probably noticed the Citizen Services table in the Cafeteria during meal time; however, most residents are not fully aware of the services provided. “The Boys State Bank allows members of Boys State a safe place to store their money,” says Citizen Services worker Jim Shaw. According to another Boys State bank worker Louis Sass, the bank has so far collected over \$7,800 worth of deposits – a total of 115 accounts. Boys State citizen and banker Josh Jordan of Stelle County comments, “I find the banking system really convenient; I do not have to risk leaving my money unattended in my room. ... The banking service allows me easy access to my money without the fear of it being stolen or lost.”

In addition, Boys State Citizen Services also provides a ‘running’ service. If a resident has left an impor-



tant item at home, the Boys State Citizen Services will run to a local convenience store and purchase your item. This service can be especially convenient if you have left your toothbrush or deodorant at home. Come talk to Jack Carri- rico at the Boys State Citizen Services, fill out a simple form, and runner David Scott will obtain your item and have it ready for you by the next day.

Matt Larsen of Stelle County thinks that this service could be extremely helpful to anyone who has left important items at home. He encourages Boys State Citizens to use this service.

Citizen Services is open during all meal periods in the Dining Room. Feel free to

visit them if you have any questions or to take advantage of the services they offer.

Good Eats!

Tuesday Dinner

Popcorn Chicken
Party Potatoes
Green Beans
Corn Muffins
Banana Cake

*Veggie Chicken Nuggets

Wednesday Breakfast

French Toast Sticks
Sausage Links
N-Grain Bars

*New Vegetarian Options!

Wednesday Lunch

Chicken Strips
Augratin Potatoes
Capri Vegetables
Fudge Bar
Ice Cream Sandwich

*Veggie Ribettes

Oration Contest * By: Alex Mamach

Many of you have some foggy knowledge of an oration contest, with the potential to win a \$1,000 scholarship. If not, here's your heads up. The contest is to be held between 12:45 and 2:00 Wednesday afternoon, and finalists again compete between 1:00 and 2:30 the following day. For information regarding the exact topic for this year, please contact your city counselors. John Tienken, a previous winner, shared some insight into his experience.

The oration topic was similar to that of this year's contestants, concerning Lincoln's legacy. John stressed the importance of creativity in an oration. In his, he presented it as if it were a screenplay from a movie. For the initial oration, he spoke in front of approximately 30 people, saying he was “crazy nervous.” After winning the contest, he spoke in front of the entire Boys State congregation. After being bolstered by his initial victory, his second oration was likely much less nerve-wracking.

Though many dread public speeches and especially those they are to be critiqued on, this is a scholarship opportunity you do *not* want to miss. While most large-sum scholarships are extremely competitive, where applicants are competing against hundreds and sometimes thousands of other applicants this one is different. The oration contest, is usually between under 100 students, with the opportunity to win \$1,000 in scholarship money. The deal is further sweetened by the seemingly endless recession, in which money is a continually scarcer commodity. Not only does winning the oration contest have immediate benefits, but it may entitle you to other scholarships, as another unique item on your college resumé. Needless to say, this is impressive to future employers as well.

As a program centered on student participation, Boys State is all about doing things you've never done before. John Tienken had little experience in speechwriting or oration, yet he walked away with first place. As he said, you have to participate because “you just never know what's going to happen.”

Volleyball * By: Tyler Urish

Yesterday in Volleyball, all eight teams battled fiercely for victory. In yesterday's events: Savage fought against Geiger, Hayes played Gleason, Keller played Kennedy, and finally Stelle played Conatser. In the first game, Geiger and Savage were very close and then near the end of the first game, Savage won the game 15 to Geiger's 10. The second game, however, was a blowout for Savage, winning 15 to 1. In the first game of Hayes versus Gleason, Hayes won 25 to 7. This was followed by another win for Hayes, 25 to 10.



originally losing 1 to 8 and Stelle was unable to come back and lost 6 to 15. The Keller/Kennedy game was very interesting game with Keller winning the first game 15 to 11. In the second game, Kennedy came back, winning 15 to 6. And finally, a tiebreaker game was played with Kennedy winning 15 to 10.

I was able to talk to the Savage county volleyball coach, Troy "Ma" Hinkel and talked to him about his team and the rest of the competition. Ma believes that this year's Savage team is one of the best defensive teams ever in all of his years coaching Savage volleyball. Ma believes that his team has a chance to win. "Geiger is always good at volleyball and were beaten by Savage today and I believe that all of the teams we will compete with are going to be difficult to defeat." Troy stated.

The next two games were started at 3:30 P.M yesterday. These games, Stelle faced Conatser and Keller played Kennedy. In the Stelle/Conatser game, Conatser led in the beginning against Stelle 9 to 3. Later Stelle was able to catch up but eventually lost the first game to Conatser, 15 Conatser and 10 Keller. The second game between the two had Stelle

Football	
Team - Score	Team - Score
Hayes-12	Gleason-12
Savage-7	Geiger-19
Kennedy-0	Keller-21
Stelle-14	Conatser-15



Basketball	
Team - Score	Team - Score
Hayes-36	Kennedy-51
Savage-46	Stelle-56
Gleason-27	Keller-35
Geiger-55	Conatser-41



Soccer	
Team - Score	Team - Score
Keller-12	Gleason-2
Savage-2	Stelle-1
Kennedy-1	Hayes-4
Geiger-0	Conatser-5



Softball	
Team - Score	Team - Score
Hayes-14	Keller-4
Savage-11	Conatser-5
Kennedy-4	Gleason-15
Stelle-2	Geiger-8



Volleyball	
Team - Score	Team - Score
Hayes-2	Gleason-0
Savage-2	Geiger-0
Kennedy-1	Keller-2
Stelle-0	Conatser-2

Model County Awards * By: José Ochoa & Austin Potthoff



The Model County Award is given to the county that has outstanding participation in well rounded activities available at Boys State. The more participation a county has, the better its chances of receiving the award.

The winner of the Model County Award is chosen with the use of a Point System. This system is tied in with the various types of activities available at Boys State. Each activity has a different amount to how many points can be achieved. Citizens can earn points towards their county by participating in the following: political activities, civic leadership, literary achievement, conduct ratings, citizenship participation, and of course athletic achievements. Along with these many opportunities to

gain points, those who participate in the oration and essay contest can help gain more points towards their county.

Citizens must also be aware because not only can they gain points, but they can also cause points to be deducted from their county. Points are at times deducted from a county due to poor conduct. The Staff Counselors at Boys State expect the conduct of citizens to be acceptable at all times. Up to 10 points can be deducted from a county every day due to poor behavior. This includes behavior during lunch, sports, and after lights are out.

Randy Johnston, the Director Counselor, said the following about Boys State. *“The Model County Award is to recognize on a daily basis and at the end of the week those counties who by their activities have excelled.”*

To find out more about how points can be achieved or how many points a certain activity can earn towards your county, refer to page 47 in the Citizenship Manual.

County Elections Completed * By: Matt Douty

The ballots were cast, the results were counted, and winners were announced. The county elections are officially over. The elections, which were held from 1 to 2 p.m. on Monday afternoon, went fairly smoothly, according to Geiger County Counselor Dave Higgins. “It was a fairly quick process, except for one city which had a tie who then had to find a fair solution to break that tie,” said Higgins, who was the Governor of Boys State in 1985.

Although the kinks are still being worked out, there was a lot of improvement from the first election, said Higgins. “Anytime people are learning something new, it takes awhile. Now they’re getting like old pros.”

Looking ahead to the next elections, which will be at the state level, is rather interesting. Candidates from all across Boys State will be practically lining up to run for office at the state level. Will candidates that won and loss at the county elections being motivated to run for state office?

“Absolutely,” added Higgins. “A win or loss at

this level can increase motivation for the state elections. (The number of candidates) varies, but there are always a couple from each county that want to run for each office.”

That theory was proven right after speaking to Cody Carr, also of Geiger County, who won the position of treasurer at the county level. “I was kind of unsure if I was going to run again or not, but after gaining public support at the city and county level, I’ve definitely decided to run for state level.”



No matter what happens after the next nomination and election process, the results will be intriguing. Boys State is what you make it, so if you are unsure about running for state office, many people will tell you to go for it, what do you have to lose?

Before you know it, the conclusion of Premier Boys State will be upon us. Take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that have been provided for us and take them in stride. The sky is the limit for everything, especially the upcoming elections, so shoot for the stars.

Premier Boys State-ment[©] — A Publication of Premier Boys State of Illinois

Editor: Kevin Gordon * Staff: Andrew Garcia * Photographer: Frank Hood

Citizen Staff: Conatser: Christopher Tenting Gleason: Alex Mamach, Jimmy Clinton, Austin Potthoff
Hayes: Max Senn Savage: Bobby VanDrimmelen, Tyler Urish Keller: Jose Ochoa, Seth Schroeder
Kennedy: Graeme Murphy Geiger: Kass Kersey, Matt Douty